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BULLETIN

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SEPTEMBER TRIP TO ALAMEDA

On Sunday, September 25, a trip was taken to Alameda to observe shorebirds. High tide at Ft. Point, San Francisco, was 4.2 feet at 7:43 a.m. PST, low tide was 3.1 feet at 12:32 p.m. PST. The party met at Lincoln Park at 8:30 a.m. PST. While waiting for the group to assemble, birds were observed in the park, especially those feeding at the blossoms of the Eucalyptus ficifolia. The weather was perfect. We then proceeded to Bay Farm Island. Some members of the Mount Diablo and Sacramento Audubon Societies joined our group making a total of 65 members and guests present.

Forty-seven species were observed: Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Semipalmated (Ringed) Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Avocet, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster Tern, Common Tern, Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Vaux Swift, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, Western Tanager, House Finch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Gambel White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

— JUNE A. W. KELLY, *Leader and Historian*.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

The series for 1955 - 56 will be held at the Berkeley High School Little Theatre, Allston Way and Grove St. Sponsored by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. The series of 5 lectures — \$ 3.50. Please make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., and mail to Audubon Screen Tours, P. O. Box 103, Berkeley, Calif. Give name, address, phone no. and no. of tickets desired. First Screen Tour Lecture, Wednesday, November 9 — Walter P. Shackleton, "Rhapsody in Bluegrass".

— MRS. GEORGE C. BROWNE, *Screen Tours Chairman*.

OCTOBER TRIP TO ROSS AND MARIN COUNTY BAYSHORE

On October 1 about 28 observers gathered at Ross, Marin County, under an overcast sky which soon cleared, for a trip that yielded the promised good views of returning migrants and winter visitants. Near the creek at the meeting place and in the adjacent grounds of the Marin Art and Garden Center there were many Yellow Warblers foraging and calling actively in the broad-leaved trees. On one shrub-dotted bank there were five kinds of sparrows foraging, including one Lincoln's, and exceptionally close views of Lesser Goldfinches in fresh, bright colors were also a treat. From here the group drove to the picnic grounds below Phoenix Lake and spent the last half of the a.m. walking up to the lake and along the road through the patches of woodland north of it, then returning via a narrow trail on a more densely forested slope. The lake was very low, but attracted 2 Pied-billed Grebes and a Spotted Sandpiper. After lunch, most of the group visited the inner end of Richardson Bay, from just north of Sausalito to near Mill Valley, where a good variety of water birds was observed from an old railroad fill across tide-flat and marsh. Last stops were made, by those returning via the Ferry, at points east of Greenbrae and Southeast of San Rafael. The following 79 species of birds were noted, most of the numbers above ten being rough estimates only: Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Brown Pelican, 24; Double-crested Cormorant, 15; American Egret, 3; Snowy Egret, 2; Mallard, several; Pintail, 1500; Canvas-back, 2; Ruddy Duck, 26; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Turkey Vulture, 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Clapper Rail, 2 (heard); Am. Coot, 50; Killdeer, 20; Black-bellied Plover, 30; Long-billed Curlew, 3; Hudsonian Curlew, 6; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Willet, 50; Greater-Yellow-legs, 1; Least Sandpiper, 10; Dowitcher, 1; Western Sandpiper, 1; Marbled Godwit, 10; Am. Avocet, 800; Northern Palompe, 1; Glaucous-winged Gull, 1 (immature); Western Gull, many; California Gull, many; Ring-billed Gull, few; Forster Tern, 15; Band-tailed Pigeon, 5; Mourning Dove, 1; Anna Hummingbird, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Red-shafted Flicker, 9; Acorn Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Black Phoebe, 1; Steller Jay, 2; Scrub Jay, 8; Am. Crow, 20; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 14; Plain Titmouse, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 5 (1 stayed so motionless on a tree trunk that many of us approached to within 10 feet of it!); Bewick Wren, 1; Am. Robin, 8; Water Pipit, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 6 (including 2 juveniles); Hutton Vireo, 3; Yellow Warbler, 25; Audubon Warbler, 4; Black-capped Warbler, 2; House Sparrow, 15; Western Meadowlark, 20; Red-winged Blackbird, several; Tri-colored Blackbird, 150 (flock at athletic field at Mill Valley, seen by H. L. C. and John Fitzpatrick while enroute to Ross); Brewer Blackbird, many; Western Tanager, 5; Purple Finch, 2; House Finch, many; Pine Siskin, 2; Am. Goldfinch, 2; (Green-backed) Lesser Goldfinch, 6; Spotted Towhee, 15; Brown Towhee, 5; Savannah Sparrow, several; Oregon Junco, many; White-crowned Sparrow, 20; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 12; Fox Sparrow, 2; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 20.

— HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Leader and Historian.*

NOVEMBER MEETING

The 458th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the West Auditorium of the Oakland Public Library, 14th and Oak Streets, on November 10, at 7:30. After the usual business meeting, Dr. Arthur S. Campbell of the faculty of St. Mary's College will give a talk on "The Ecology of the Birds of the Moraga Valley". Come and bring your friends.

— MRS. BUDD J. SMITH, *Program Chairman*.

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from Berkeley, Dr. H. C. Carpenter, Miss Fay Chalmers, Mrs. Mary Crawford, Frederic L. Schuder, Miss Janet Wieberg; from Hayward, Mrs. James C. Thompson; from Oakland, Miss Christine A. Baer, Glenn Fillman, Mrs. Marcella O'Gara; from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Flower, Miss Norma Ockree, Capt. F. A. Tusler.

— MRS. FRANK A. SCOTT, *Membership Chairman*.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION COUNCIL, International House, Berkeley, Tuesday, November 15, Morning Meeting 10:00 A.M. Luncheon. Afternoon Session and Awards Dinner at 6:30 P.M. Every welcome.

OBSERVATIONS. **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**, on roof of Alta Bates Hospital, Berkeley, 5 a.m., October 5, 1955 (A. S. Campbell); **AMERICAN EGRET**, 1 at St. Mary's College, September 25, 1955 (first record, ASC); **WOOD DUCK**, 5 at St. Mary's College, October 3, 1955 (ASC); **SORA**, garden, 2030 Franklin Street, San Francisco (Geo. T. Kilham); **ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD**, El Cerrito, October 19 (A. L. Curl); **AMERICAN REDSTART**, female, Stinson Beach State Park, Sept. 23 (Hans Meinhardt).

ANNUAL CONVENTION, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. The 51st Annual Convention will be held in New York City from Saturday, November 12, through Tuesday, November 15. The National Audubon Society has arranged an unusually interesting program this year, with talks by a number of well-known speakers including Roger Tory Peterson, Kenneth D. Morrison, Robert P. Allen, John K. Terres and Dr. Paul Sears, and color films by Karl Maslowski, Bayard Read, Cleveland P. Grant, and Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. On Sunday there will be an all day outing to the Society's Center at Greenwich, Conn.

IMPORTANT NEW BOOK ON BIRDS OF PREY. The National Audubon Society announced the publication on October 19 by Harper and Brothers of "North American Birds of Prey", by Alexander Sprunt, Jr. The NAS sponsored this publication which is said to be the first comprehensive book about these birds.

EGRET SLAUGHTER. The account of the slaughter of more than 500 egrets on the Marin Islands, as reported in the papers on October 12-13, appears to have been somewhat exaggerated; subsequent reports stated that some 500 egrets, both American and Snowy, normally live on the island. The affair is being investigated by both federal and state officials since killing egrets is both a State and a Federal crime, but the perpetrators of this wanton slaughter have not yet been found. The GGAS boat trip of May 22, which failed to reach the Farallones, visited the Marin Islands and reported a nesting colony of about 120 American Egrets and 15 Snowy Egrets.

FIELD TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

On Sunday, November 13, to BOLINAS and POINT REYES. On this date last year over 3000 migrating loons (all 3 species) were counted flying past Point Reyes in 3½ hours of watching, and a Tropical Kingbird and numbers of Starlings were seen on the way there. It is hoped that a similar occurrence will be in store for the trip this year; the passage of the loons is very likely to be similar. However, visibility from the point fluctuates greatly with fog conditions, so plans are being kept flexible until the day of the trip, and other areas may be substituted if the Point is fog-bound all day. Meet at 9:00 on Brighton Ave. (the main street) in Bolinas, near the Presbyterian Church. A nearby winter roost of Monarch Butterflies will be pointed out, although there may be very few there as of this date. Birding will include waterfowl and shorebirds of lagoon and beach areas near Bolinas, a stop at a fresh-water marsh near Olema, where Virginia and Sora Rails are usually found, and perhaps other stops en route to Point Reyes. Greyhound Bus service is available, leaving San Francisco at 8:15, arriving at Bolinas at 9:55 (at least some of the cars in the group will meet the bus). Transportation thereafter by private car upon arrangement (call TR 3-6419. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch, and interested friends. Leaders, Alan Craig, AS 3-9700, and Mrs. G. S. Miller.

On Saturday, November 26, to ORINDA and SAN PABLO RESERVOIR. A good variety of woodland and shrub thicket birds can be found here, and Hooded Mergansers are often on the tiny Cascade Lake in winter, as well as numbers of Canada Geese and ducks on the reservoir. Meet at 9:00 at Orinda Crossroads, near the theatre at Moraga Ave. (this point being reached by Greyhound Bus from San Francisco). Leader, Peter Veitch. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch if desired, and interested friends.

—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Field Trips Chairman*.

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE GULL

The editor requests that hereafter all notices and news intended for publication in THE GULL reach him on or before the FRIDAY preceding the 20th of the month or on the 20th if this date falls on Friday. The deadline for the following month will be announced each month in THE GULL. The December deadline is Friday, November 18.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

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Changes of Address should be sent to the Membership Chairman; claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE. Local Membership only, \$1.50 per year.

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